

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### APPLE GROWERS CAN APPLY FOR AID SOON

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that apple growers who have suffered years of losses because of record-low prices will soon have the opportunity to apply for the emergency assistance that was included in the Fiscal Year 2001 Agriculture Appropriations bill. Hinchey authored the provision that added \$138 million in emergency aid to the budget.

"It was a year ago that I initiated this effort to provide aid to apple growers," said Hinchey. "We've overcome many obstacles since then, so it's gratifying to be able to announce that help is coming soon."

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Hinchey wrote the amendment to the FY '01 Agriculture Appropriations bill to provide \$115 million in emergency relief for apple growers who have suffered several consecutive years of weather-related crop losses and record low prices. The congressional leadership made repeated attempts to strip his amendment from the bill, but failed. The bill passed the House with the Hinchey amendment intact in June. Then, as a member of the joint House-Senate conference committee, Hinchey negotiated the final agreement in which the amount was raised to \$138 million. One hundred million dollars of that sum was set aside for market losses, while \$38 million was earmarked for quality losses due to weather-related problems.

The rules for the distribution of the market loss assistance are expected to be published in the Federal Register within days. Growers will then have the opportunity to apply for funds. The rules for the quality loss funds will follow within a few weeks.